

STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER

MICHAEL J. COPPS

December 11, 2002

RE: Additional Spectrum for Unlicensed Devices Below 900 MHz and in the 3 GHz Band.

We are all excited about the potential of unlicensed spectrum and the benefits it can bring to American consumers. There is no question that our Part 15 rules and unlicensed technologies are extremely important to the future. Hopefully they will contribute to more innovative management of the spectrum. So I most definitely support exploring ways to make more spectrum available for unlicensed devices.

The Commission is struggling with how to address what looks like a spectrum crunch that gets more dire every day. Our Part 15 rules and unlicensed technologies are extremely important to the future of the Commission's management of the spectrum because they may provide us with spectrum resources that our current spectrum management paradigm doesn't recognize.

At the same time, we must find a way to balance the need to provide spectrum resources for innovators, entrepreneurs, and new technologies with the equally important need to avoid unacceptable levels of interference to incumbent users and consumers. The Part 15 rules and the use of unlicensed devices will play a central role in addressing this challenge. I hope that we will be able to determine the wisdom of the suggestions in this NOI, and then move quickly from ideas to action.

Thanks to OET for its role in getting us to today. I am pleased that the Commission is charting this new path.